

What is claimed is:

1. A patient bed for use in performing medical procedures on a medical patient, comprising:

a lower layer, said lower layer permitting attachment to a conventional external base;

an upper layer attached in a sliding relationship to said lower layer, said upper layer being angled upwardly relative to said lower layer; and

a pair of apertures in the patient support, said apertures permitting a patient's breast to fit through the aperture.

2. The patient bed of claim 1 wherein the patient support further comprises:

a midsection;

a leg support angled upwardly from the midsection of the upper layer; and

a torso support angled upwardly from the midsection of the upper layer.

3. The patient bed of claim 2 wherein said upper layer is permitted to slide relative to the lower layer such that the torso support is cantilevered outwardly from the lower layer.

4. The patient bed of claim 3 further comprising an adjustable breast immobilizer.

5. The patient bed of claim 4 wherein said breast immobilizer is comprised of:

a first compression plate;

and a second compression plate for each breast, said first and second compression plates having a plurality of apertures permitting access to the breast of a medical patient.

6. The patient support apparatus of claim 5 wherein said first and second compression plates compress the breast by translating toward one another.

7. The patient support apparatus of claim 6 wherein the lateral compression plate translates downward from the patient support as it moves toward the medial plate, thereby pulling the breast tissue away from the chest wall.

8. The patient support apparatus of claim 7 wherein said first and second compression plates have a surface providing a high coefficient of friction such that the breast can be gripped between the compression plates.

9. The patient support apparatus of claim 8 wherein a left RF coil and a right RF coil are provided, said RF coils being attachable around the breasts of a medical patient.

10. A mobile patient base for use with a medical imaging machine comprising:
a lower support; said lower support sliding into the existing mobile patient base;
a patient support attached in a sliding relationship to the lower support and being
contoured such that the upper torso of a medical patient is angled
upwardly so as to create a void between the lower support and the patient
support;

said patient support having a pair of apertures permitting the patient's breast to fit
through.

11. The patient support apparatus of claim 10 further comprising an adjustable breast immobilizer positioned around the each of the apertures in the patient support, said breast immobilizer comprised of a first compression plate and a second compression plate, said first and second compression plates having a plural of apertures permitting access to the breast of a medical patient.

12. The patient support apparatus of claim 11 wherein said first and second compression plates compress the breast by translating toward one another.

13. The patient support apparatus of claim 12 wherein said first and second compression plates translate downward from the patient support, thereby pulling the breast away from the chest wall.

14. The patient support apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first and second compression plates have a surface providing a high coefficient of friction such that the breast can be gripped between the compression plates.

15. The patient support apparatus of claim 14 wherein a left RF coil and a right RF coil are provided, said RF coils being attachable around the breasts of a medical patient.

16. A patient support apparatus for use in a medical imaging machine comprising:

a patient transport;

a lower support adapted to conform to the patient transport;

a patient support attached in a sliding relationship to the lower support, said patient support being contoured such that the upper torso of a medical

patient is angled upwardly such that the medical patient is supported over the lower support, said patient support further having a pair of apertures therethrough permitting passage of the breasts of a medical patient; and a breast immobilization device comprising a first sliding compression plate and a second sliding compression plate, said compression plates sliding together to compress the breast of a medical patient by translating toward one another.

17. The patient support apparatus of claim 16 wherein said patient support is concave along its longitudinal access.

18. The patient support apparatus of claim 17 wherein the thickness of the patient support is reduced near the apertures.

19. The patient support apparatus of claim 18 wherein said first and second compression plates translate downward from the patient support, thereby pulling the breast away from the chest wall.

20. The patient support apparatus of claim 19 wherein said first and second compression plates have a surface providing a high coefficient of friction such that the breast can be gripped between the compression plates.